

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: Introducing Hebrew Wisdom Literature

TERM: F **YEAR:** 20119 [September to December 2011]

PROFESSOR: Igal German

REGISTRATION: UNLIMITED

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course introduces the Hebrew Wisdom literature of the Old Testament [the books of Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes)] in its literary-historical context and explores common literary genres and theological motifs (form and content). Lectures, examinations and final exegetical paper.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Outline and explain the literary-historical contours of Proverbs, Job, and Qoheleth.
2. Understand and identify the ancient Near Eastern setting and the canonical formation of the Wisdom books.
3. Evaluate the theological features of the Wisdom literature and apply them in contemporary life and ministry.

PREREQUISITES: Introduction to the Old Testament

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Modern English Bible (e.g., NIV, NASB, NRSV)
2. Stuart, Weeks. *An Introduction to the Study of Wisdom Literature*. New York: T&T Clark, 2010.
3. Alter, Robert. *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: a Translation with Commentary*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Tests (3) – 60%

Exegetical paper – 40%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Alter, Robert. *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: a Translation with Commentary*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.
- Blocker, Henri. "The Fear of the Lord as the 'Principle' of Wisdom." *Tyndale Bulletin* 28 (1977): 3-28.
- Brown, William P. *Character in Crisis: A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Cohen, A. *Proverbs: Hebrew Text & English Translation with an Introduction and Commentary*. London: The Soncino Press, 1945.
- Clifford, Richard J. *The Wisdom Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts, ed. Gene Tucker. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Crenshaw, James L. "The Wisdom Literature", in Knight, Douglas A. and Tucker, Gene M. (eds), *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters* (1985).
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- Daniel C. Fredericks and Daniel J. Estes. *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2010.
- Delitzsch, Franz. "Proverbs." In vol. 6: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. Translated by M. G. Easton. *Commentary on the Old Testament*. 10 vols. N.p.; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973.
- Habel, Norman C. "The Symbolism of Wisdom in Proverbs 1-9." *Interpretation* 26 (1972): 131-157.
- John H. Walton (general editor). *The Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of songs* (ZIBBC). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2009.
- Kevin J. Vanhoozer, et. al., eds. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI; London: Baker Academic; SPCK, 2008.
- Kidner, Derek. *The Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*. The Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1964.
- McKane, William. *Proverbs: A New Approach*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1970, 1975.
- Michael B. Dick. *Reading the Old Testament: An Inductive Introduction*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.
- Mouser, William E., Jr. *Walking in Wisdom: Studying the Proverbs of Solomon*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1983.
- Scott, R. B. Y. *Proverbs-Ecclesiastes*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1965.
- Stanley, Christopher D. *The Hebrew Bible: A Comparative Approach*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Stuart, Weeks. *An Introduction to the Study of Wisdom Literature*. New York: T&T Clark, 2010.

Worden, Ronald D. *A Topical Arrangement of Proverbs*. Second ed. Houston: Houston Graduate School of Theology, 1985.

Waltke, Bruce K. "The Book of Proverbs and Ancient Wisdom Literature." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 136 (1979): 221-238.

_____. "The Book of Proverbs and Old Testament Theology." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 136 (1979): 302-18.